

1                                   **SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 79**

2       (By Senators Palumbo, Beach, Browning, Fanning, Jenkins, Klempa,  
3       Minard, Snyder, Tucker, Williams, Wills, Barnes, K. Facemyer and  
4                                   Nohe)

5                   [Originating in the Committee on the Judiciary]

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7       Requesting the Joint Committee on Government and Finance to study  
8           the need for establishing a program authorizing the executive  
9           director of Public Defender Services to manage and otherwise  
10          have central authority and control over public defender  
11          corporations.

12          Whereas, Article twenty-one of Chapter twenty-nine of the Code  
13       of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, currently permits public  
14       defender corporations of all the judicial circuits to be  
15       centralized under the Executive Director of Public Defender  
16       Services; and

17          Whereas, The Legislature believes that it is in the State's  
18       best interest to study ways to improve the quality of legal  
19       representation for indigent criminal defendants and in child abuse  
20       and neglect matters; and

21          Whereas, it being in the State's best interest to assure the  
22       prudent expenditure of state funds; therefore, be it

23               *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

1           That the Joint Committee on Government and Finance is  
2 requested to study the need for establishing a program authorizing  
3 the executive director of Public Defender Services to manage and  
4 otherwise have central authority and control over public defender  
5 corporations; and, be it

6           *Further Resolved*, That the Joint Committee on Government and  
7 Finance shall report to the regular session of the Legislature,  
8 2012, on its findings, conclusions and recommendations, together  
9 with drafts of any legislation necessary to effectuate its  
10 recommendations; and, be it

11           *Further Resolved*, That the expenses necessary to conduct this  
12 study, to prepare a report and to draft necessary legislation be  
13 paid from legislative appropriations to the Joint Committee on  
14 Government and Finance.